31
DOCTOR
SOLAR
WHITMAN
90308-203

DOCTOR SOLAR

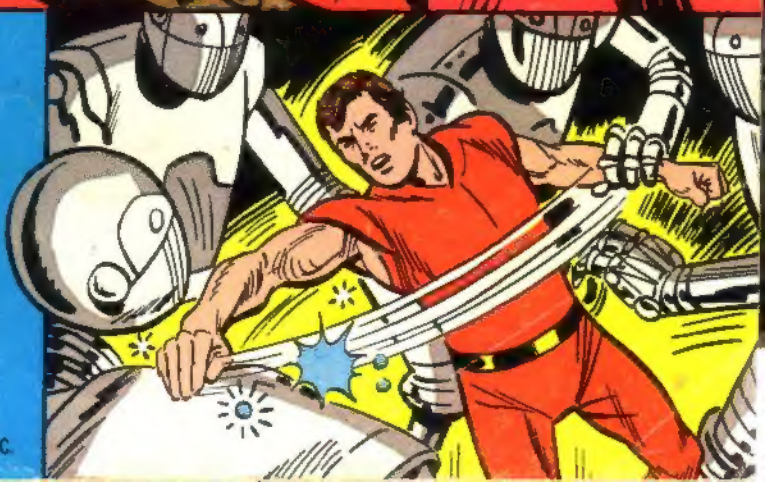
MAN OF THE ATOM

60¢

Solar in a supercharged struggle with– THE SENTINEL!

ALSO FEATURING

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER 4000 A.D.



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CAUGHT IN A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, A BILLION-TO-ONE ACCIDENT TRANSFORMED PHYSICIST RAYMOND SOLAR INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN HUMAN--THE INCREDIBLE
DOCTOR
SOLAR
MAN OF THE ATOM
ATTEMPTING TO BREAK THE EVIL FEDERATION'S DEEP-SPACE BLOCKADE OF CORDOLON TO BRING DESPERATELY NEEDED SUPPLIES TO THAT BELEAGURED PLANET, THE FREIGHTER, DAWN-STAR, FINDS ITSELF IN TERRIBLE DANGER...
90308-203
SOLAR-31

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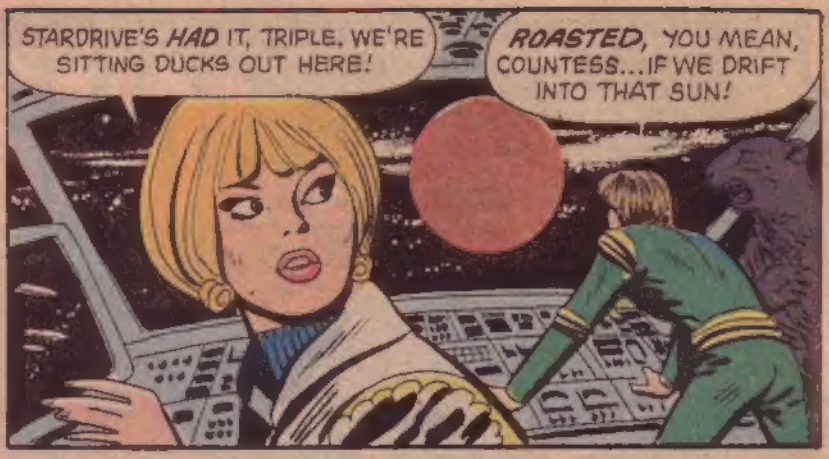
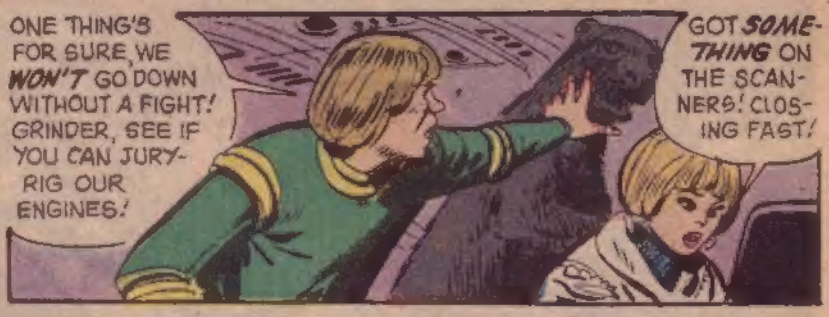
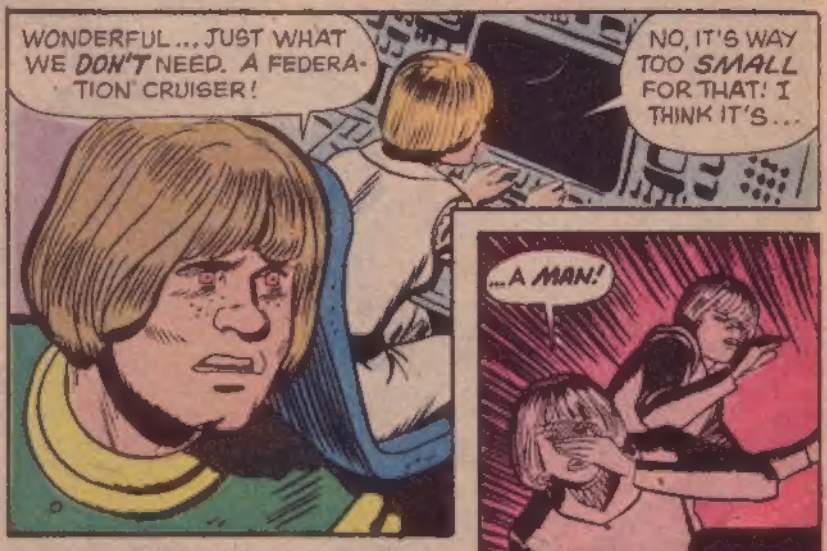
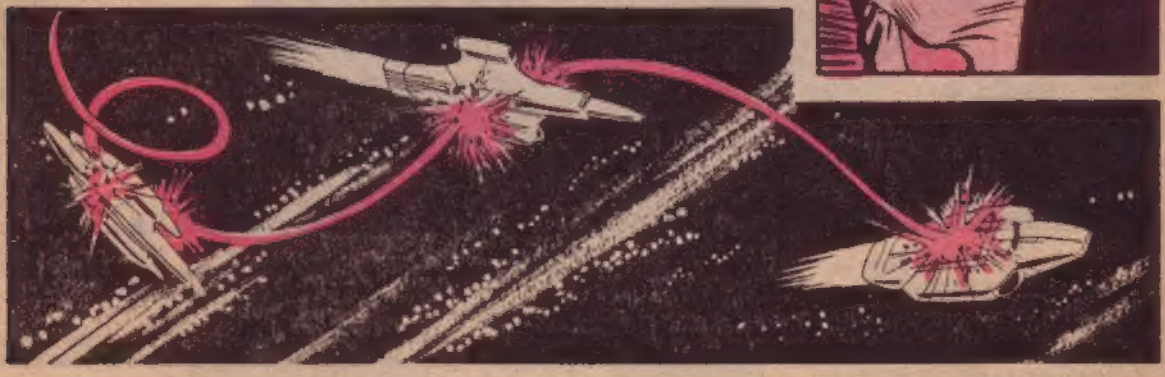
VIP
VIP
VIP


STARDRIVE'S HAD IT, TRIPLE. WE'RE SITTING DUCKS OUT HERE!
ROASTED, YOU MEAN, COUNTESS... IF WE DRIFT INTO THAT SUN!

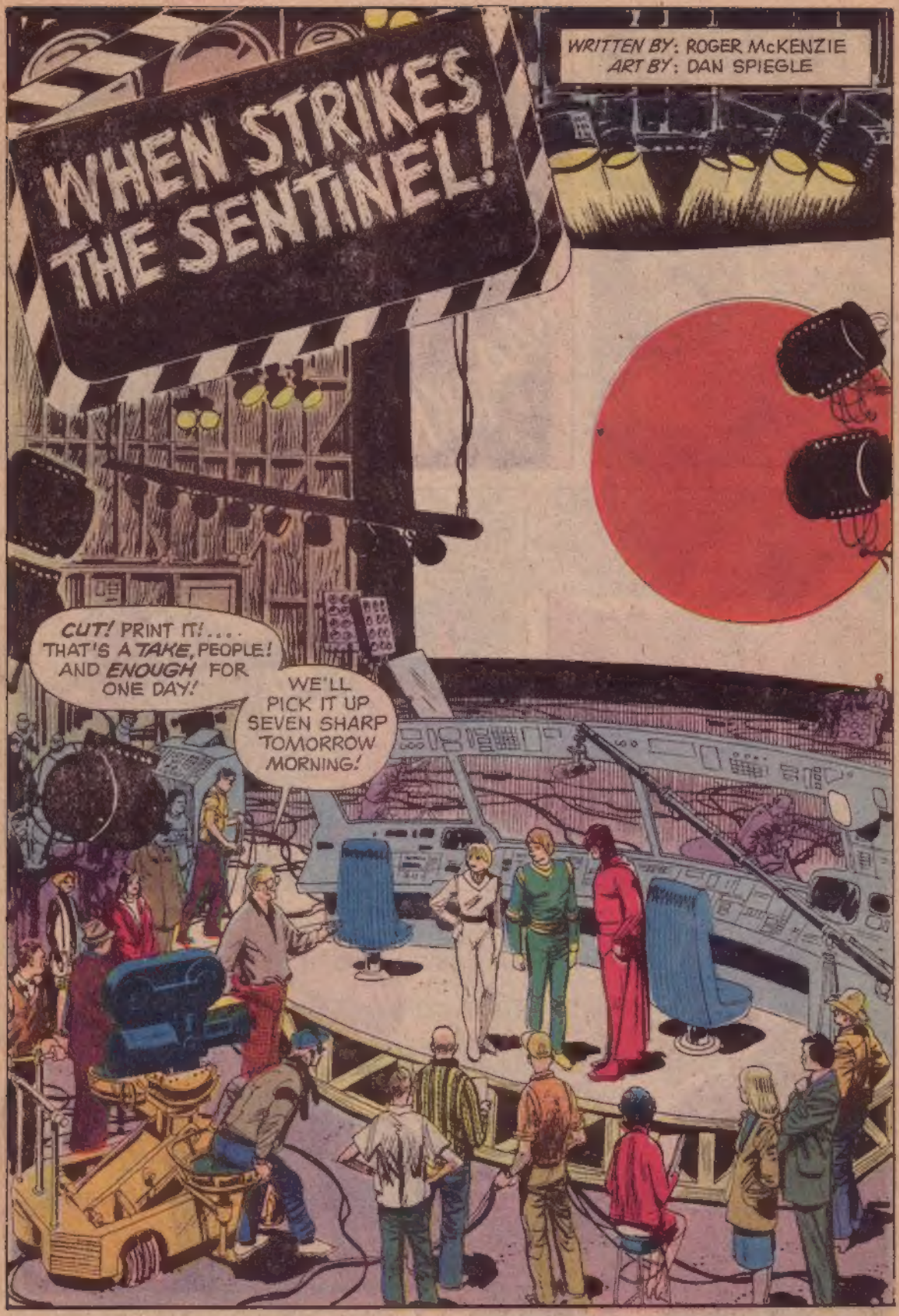

ONE THING'S FOR SURE, WE WON'T GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT! GRINDER, SEE IF YOU CAN JURY-RIG OUR ENGINES!
GOT SOMETHING ON THE SCANNERS! CLOSING FAST!


WONDERFUL... JUST WHAT WE DON'T NEED. A FEDERATION CRUISER!
NO, IT'S WAY TOO SMALL FOR THAT! I THINK IT'S...

...A MAN!

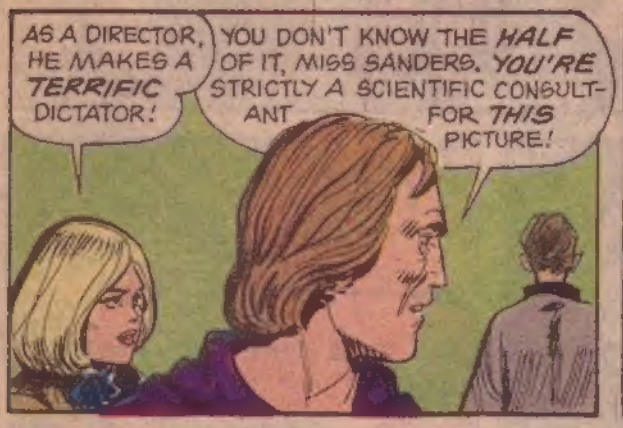


WAARKK!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, BUDDY! BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR CELEBRATION'S ABOUT TO GO UP IN SMOKE!
WE'RE CAUGHT FAST -- BEING PULLED INTO THE HEART OF THAT SUN!
HOLD ON, COUNTESS!
CAPTAIN, I KNEW YOU WERE A DOUBLE-DEALING, BACK-STABBING OFF-WORLD RUM RUNNER...
...BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A MAGICIAN, TOO, WE SHOULD BE DEAD!
MAYBE... IF I WASN'T THE BEST SPACE-JOCKEY THIS SIDE OF ANDROMEDA!
WAARKK!
OF COURSE, I DID HAVE A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS!
RIGHT, SENTINEL?
MY PLEASURE, DAN!
THE SCARLET AVENGER SMILES, AND THEN...


WHEN STRIKES THE SENTINEL!
WRITTEN BY: ROGER McKENZIE
ART BY: DAN SPIEGLE
CUT! PRINT IT!.... THAT'S A TAKE, PEOPLE! AND ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY!
WE'LL PICK IT UP SEVEN SHARP TOMORROW MORNING!

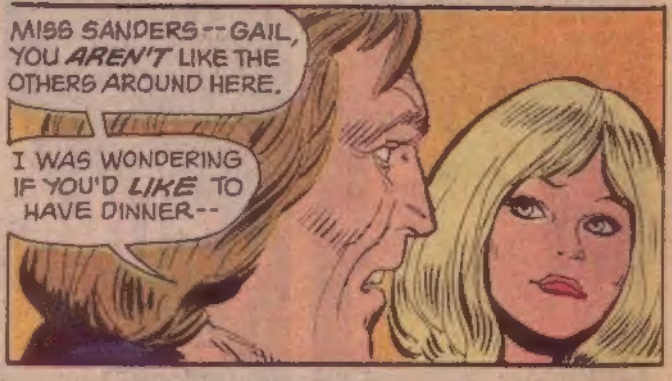
THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO, BARRIS!
THE NAME'S HARRIS, MR. MONEYMAN! RON HARRIS!

BARRIS, HARRIS, WHATEVER. JUST BE HERE ON TIME FOR A CHANGE...
...OR I'LL FIND SOME OTHER WOULD-BE ACTOR TO WEAR THAT COSTUME!


AS A DIRECTOR, HE MAKES A TERRIFIC DICTATOR!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, MISS SANDERS. YOU'RE STRICTLY A SCIENTIFIC CONSULTANT FOR THIS PICTURE!

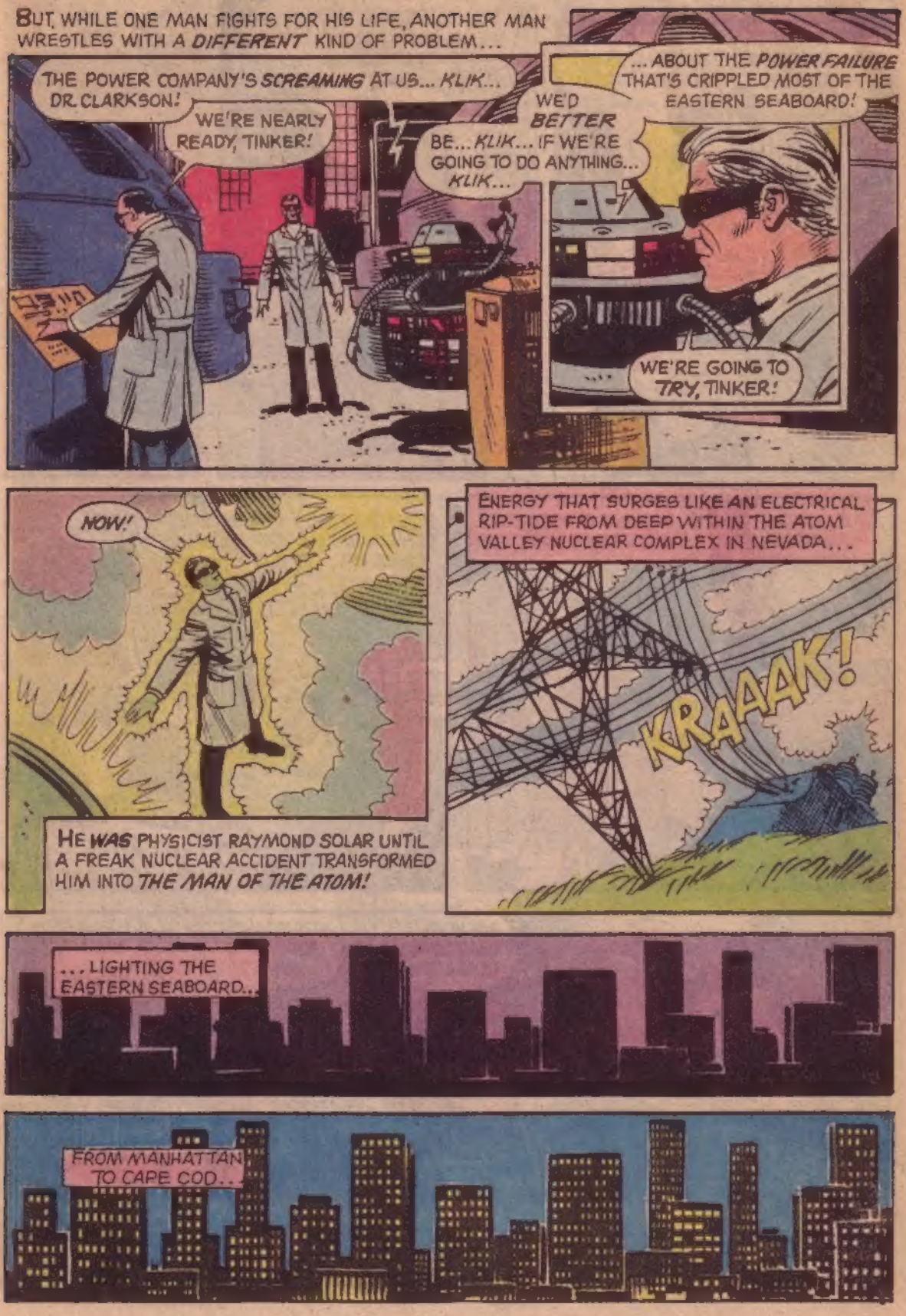
HE'S MORE CONCERNED WITH SPECIAL EFFECTS -- LIKE THIS LASER-PROJECTION SCREEN -- THAN HE IS WITH PEOPLE!

SIX MONTHS I'VE WORKED ON THIS MOVIE AND HE CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER MY NAME!
OH--!
BUT HE WILL. SOMEDAY THE WHOLE WORLD WILL!


MISS SANDERS -- GAIL, YOU AREN'T LIKE THE OTHERS AROUND HERE.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE DINNER--

OF COURSE SHE WOULD. BUT NOT WITH A LOSER LIKE YOU!

RON, I'M SORRY.
THAT'S OKAY, GAIL.
I'M USED TO BEING A NOBODY... JUST A TWO-BIT EXTRA WITH NO PAST AND LESS OF A FUTURE. I--
HEY, LOOK OUT!
KA-THAM!
BRILLIANT LIGHT LEAPS FROM THE PROJECTION SCREEN...
NO!
...AND A MASSIVE DOSE OF ENERGY IS ABSORBED BY HARRIS'S BODY!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT SOMEBODY BETTER GET A DOCTOR!


BUT, WHILE ONE MAN FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE, ANOTHER MAN WRESTLES WITH A DIFFERENT KIND OF PROBLEM...
THE POWER COMPANY'S SCREAMING AT US... KLIK... DR. CLARKSON!
WE'RE NEARLY READY, TINKER!
WE'D BETTER BE... KLIK... IF WE'RE GOING TO DO ANYTHING... KLIK...
... ABOUT THE POWER FAILURE THAT'S CRIPPLED MOST OF THE EASTERN SEABOARD!
WE'RE GOING TO TRY, TINKER!
NOW!
HE WAS PHYSICIST RAYMOND SOLAR UNTIL A FREAK NUCLEAR ACCIDENT TRANSFORMED HIM INTO THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
ENERGY THAT SURGES LIKE AN ELECTRICAL RIP-TIDE FROM DEEP WITHIN THE ATOM VALLEY NUCLEAR COMPLEX IN NEVADA...
KRAAAK!
... LIGHTING THE EASTERN SEABOARD..
FROM MANHATTAN TO CAPE COD..

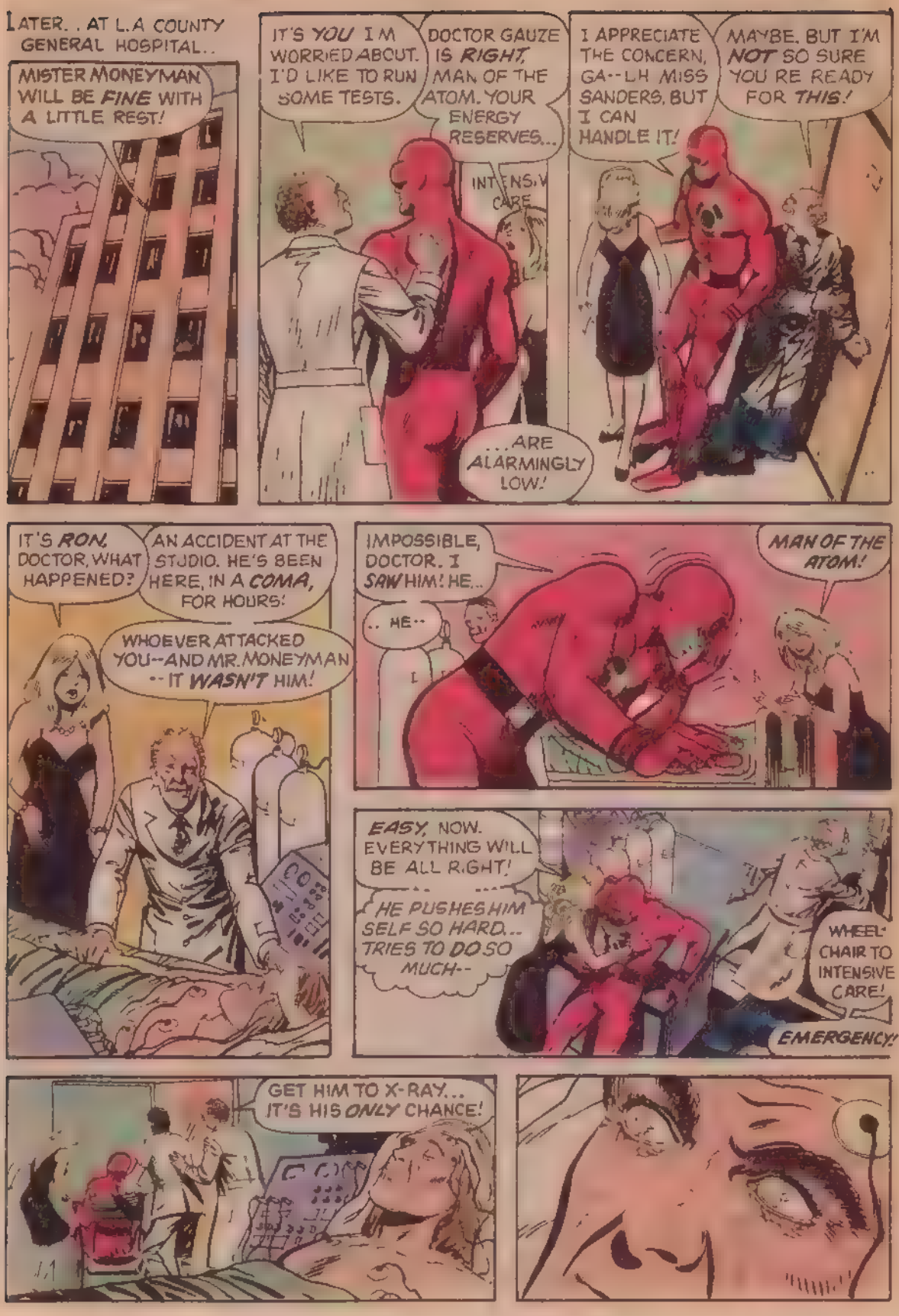
NEARLY AN HOUR LATER...
THAT'S GOT IT, RAY! THEY'VE RESTORED POWER!
AND THE PRESIDENT SENDS HIS REGARDS!
TELL HIM I'M GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO HELP, JOHN!
RINNG!
DR. SOLAR... IT'S GAIL!
GAIL... HOW ARE YOU?
BELIEVE IT NOT, HOMESICK. I CAN'T WAIT TO--
HOLD ON, RAY. SOMETHING'S COME UP.
FEELS LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE, BUT--
RUMBLE!
LOOK OUT! THAT WALL'S COLLAPSING!
NO! SOMEBODY RIPPED IT APART!
I CAN SEE HIM! HE'S...

HE'S FLYING!
GAIL.. I HAD TO FIND YOU... TO LET YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL!
JOHN, I THINK GAIL'S IN TROUBLE!
I HOPE I'M WRONG!
...BUT I CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE!
SZZZAK!
BARRIS, YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU PULLED THIS LITTLE STUNT, BUT--
SHUT UP LITTLE MAN!
JUST..
...SHUT..
...UP!

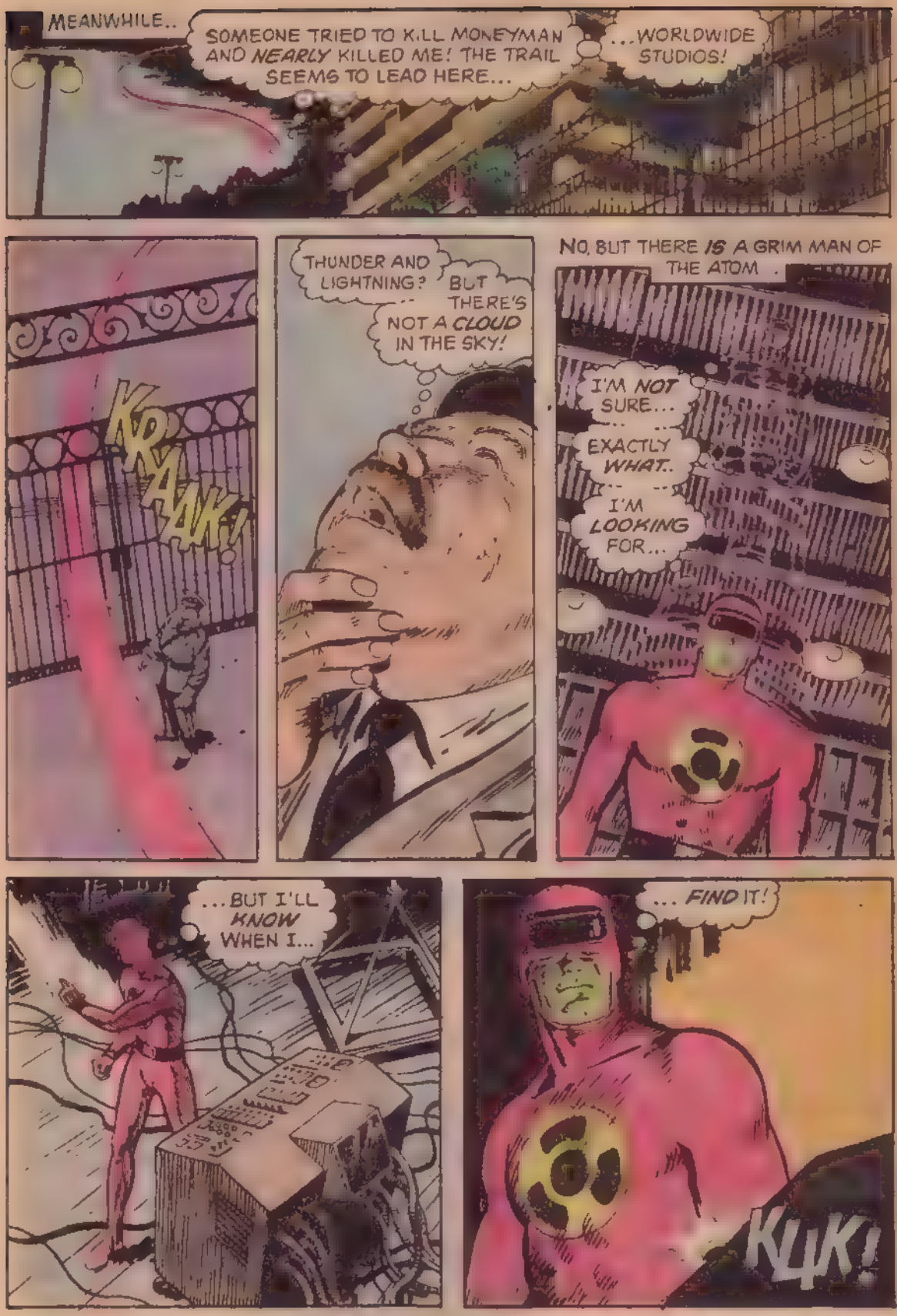
I OWE YOU, LITTLE MAN! YOU'VE HEAPED ENOUGH MISERY ON ME TO LAST A LIFETIME!
BUT ALL THAT'S CHANGED NOW! I'VE CHANGED!
RON NO! YOU'LL KILL HIM!
YOU'D STAND UP FOR HIM WHEN YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DIFFERENT! I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD!
MAYBE I DON'T... BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO MANHANDLE ME!
THEN... WITH THE EXPLOSIVE SUDDENESS OF A THUNDERCLAP...
YOU HEARD HER, MADMAN! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HER...
...NOW!
SKAAAASH!

I WANT ANSWERS, MISTER! WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT--
EEEEE
OH, NO! THAT FALLING GLASS WILL INJURE SOMEONE...
...MAYBE CRITICALLY...
...UNLESS I CAN USE MY NUCLEAR POWERS TO TRANSMUTE IT...
...INTO SOMETHING A LOT LESS DANGEROUS!
THAT TOOK NEARLY EVERYTHING I HAD!
BUT WHERE'S

SLORAAK
I'VE HEARD OF YOU! YOU'RE THE MAN OF THE ATOM!
YOU THINK YOU'RE A HERO -- BUT YOU'RE NOTHING!
I'LL KILL YOU!
I--
NO! WH-WHAT AM I SAYING?
WH-WHAT HAVE I BECOME?

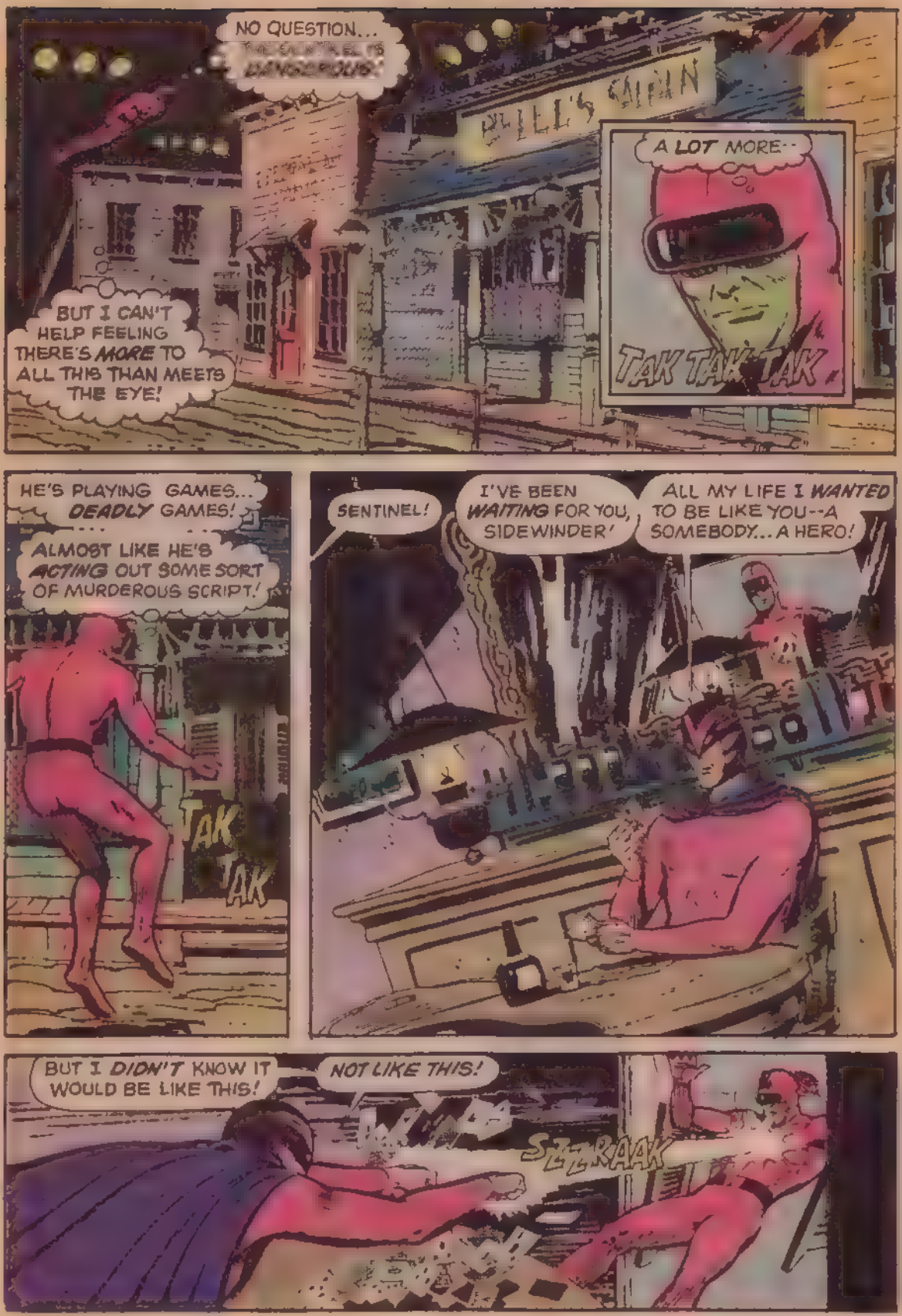

LATER. . AT L.A COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL..
MISTER MONEYMAN WILL BE FINE WITH A LITTLE REST!
IT'S YOU I'M WORRIED ABOUT. I'D LIKE TO RUN SOME TESTS.
DOCTOR GAUZE IS RIGHT, MAN OF THE ATOM. YOUR ENERGY RESERVES...
INTENSIVE CARE
...ARE ALARMINGLY LOW!
I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN, GA--LH MISS SANDERS, BUT I CAN HANDLE IT!
MAYBE. BUT I'M NOT SO SURE YOU RE READY FOR THIS!
IT'S RON. DOCTOR, WHAT HAPPENED?
AN ACCIDENT AT THE STUDIO. HE'S BEEN HERE, IN A COMA, FOR HOURS!
WHOEVER ATTACKED YOU--AND MR. MONEYMAN --IT WASN'T HIM!
IMPOSSIBLE, DOCTOR. I SAW HIM! HE...
.. HE..
MAN OF THE ATOM!
EASY, NOW. EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!
HE PUSHES HIMSELF SO HARD... TRIES TO DO SO MUCH--
WHEEL CHAIR TO INTENSIVE CARE!
EMERGENCY!
GET HIM TO X-RAY... IT'S HIS ONLY CHANCE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER..
I SEE IT, DOC
..BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HE'S SOAKED UP ENOUGH X-RAYS TO FRY A HUNORED MEN!
HE ISN'T LIKE OTHER MEN. HE'S SOMETHING ...SPECIAL!
WHATEVER HE IS, HE ISN'T HUMAN. I DON'T MIND ADMITTING THAT IT SCARES ME!..
...A LOT!
WE TOOK AN OATH TO HEAL, NOT PASS JUDGMENT. YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT, DOCTOR!
THAT MAN IN THERE...
SKRAWK
..IS GONE!
AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE!


MEANWHILE..
SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL MONEYMAN AND NEARLY KILLED ME! THE TRAIL SEEMS TO LEAD HERE...
...WORLDWIDE STUDIOS!
KRAAK!
THUNDER AND LIGHTNING? BUT THERE'S NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY!
NO, BUT THERE IS A GRIM MAN OF THE ATOM .
I'M NOT SURE...
EXACTLY WHAT..
I'M LOOKING FOR...
...BUT I'LL KNOW WHEN I...
... FIND IT!
KLAK!

YOU!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE...
...BUT YOU WILL NOT LEAVE . ALIVE!
SKRAASH!
HE MATERIALIZED FROM THAT PROTOTYPE LASER PROJECTOR! WHAT SORT OF MAN IS HE...
...OR IS HE A MAN AT ALL?
I THOUGHT AS MUCH. HE'S NOTHING BUT AN ENERGY CONSTRUCT!
AND ENERGY CAN BE ..
. DRAINED!
NO!

TOO POWERFUL! CAN'T LET HIM CONNECT AGAIN!
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!
A MISTAKE I WON'T MAKE AGAIN!
RAAAGH!
GRRAH H
SZZRAAK!
THAT WAS CLOSE.. TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!
SOMEHOW THE SENTINEL'S RAMPANT ENERGY POWERED THAT MECHANICAL CREATURE TO LIFE!


NO QUESTION...
THE SENTINEL IS DANGEROUS!
BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING THERE'S MORE TO ALL THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE!
A LOT MORE--
TAK TAK TAK
HE'S PLAYING GAMES... DEADLY GAMES!
ALMOST LIKE HE'S ACTING OUT SOME SORT OF MURDEROUS SCRIPT!
TAK TAK
SENTINEL!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, SIDEWINDER!
ALL MY LIFE I WANTED TO BE LIKE YOU--A SOMEBODY... A HERO!
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS!
NOT LIKE THIS!
SZZRAAK

I WAS A NOTHING...A NOBODY! NOW I HAVE POWE■!
BUT IT HURTS! IT--
MAN OF THE ATOM!
ALL RIGHT, HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
YOU BROUGHT THE AUTHORITIES!
...YOU BETRAYED ME! WHY? WHY?
SHE WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU! SO WAS I!
BUT NOW THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF!
YOU WANT A FIGHT. .
.. YOU'VE GOT ONE!

Nooo!

SHUT DOWN THE LASER PROJECTOR IN STUDIO B!
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! JUST DO IT!

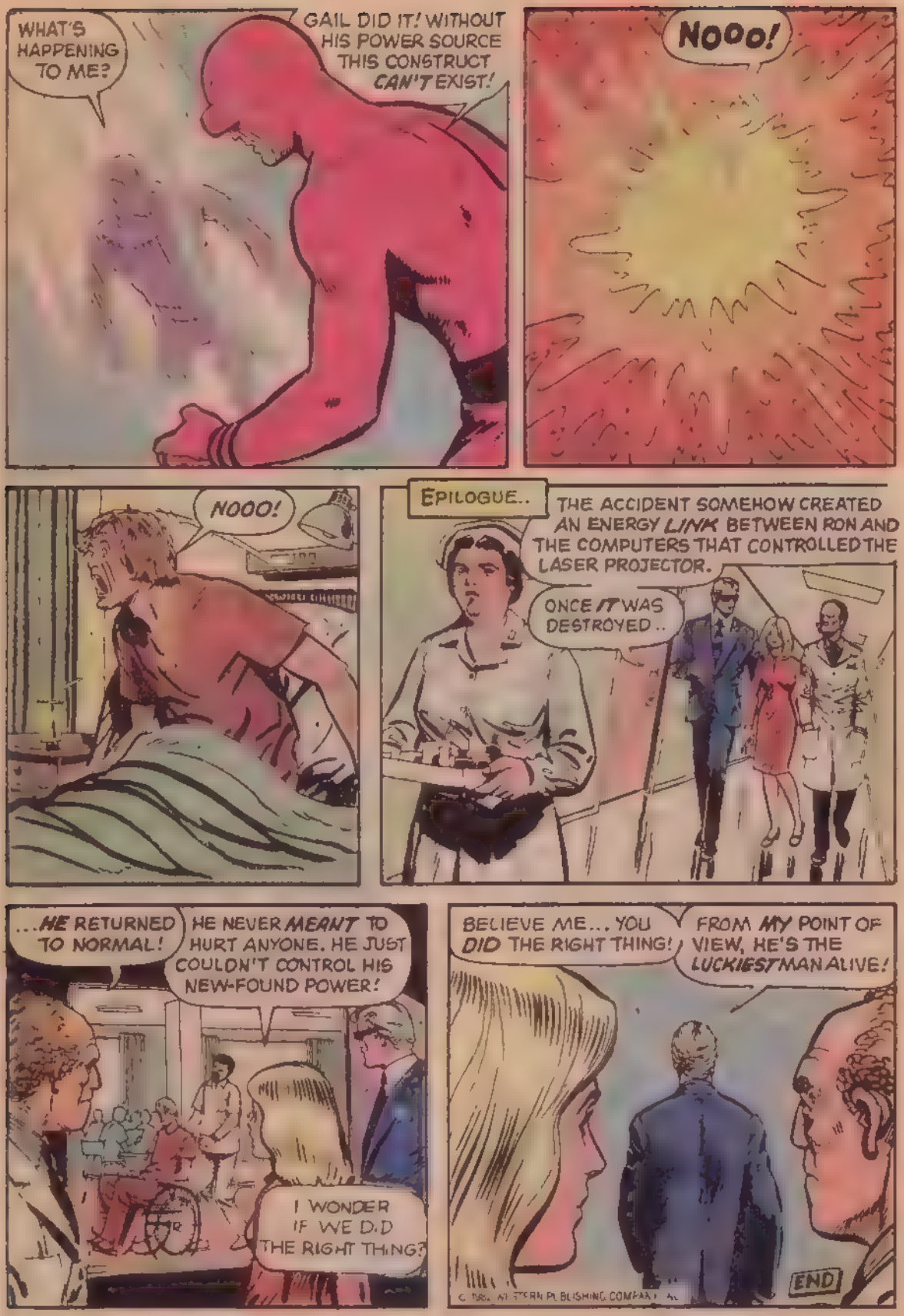
I'LL HANDLE THE SENTINEL!
WILL YOU, VARLET?

I DOUBT THAT!
SKRAAK!
I DOUBT THAT VERY MUCH!

ALL I EVER WANTED WAS RESPECT!
BUT NOT AT THIS PRICE! NOT--
THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO BE ENEMIES! WE HAVE TOO MUCH IN COMMON!
THEN LET ME HELP YOU BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

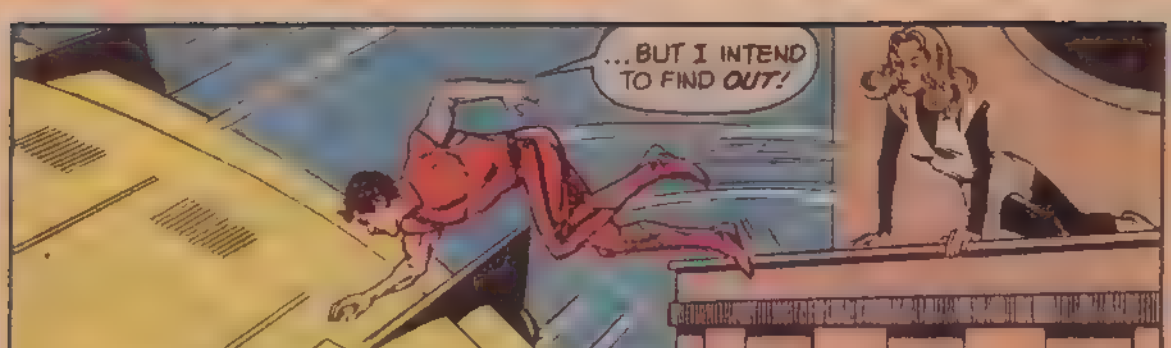
YOU... WANT TO HELP... ME?

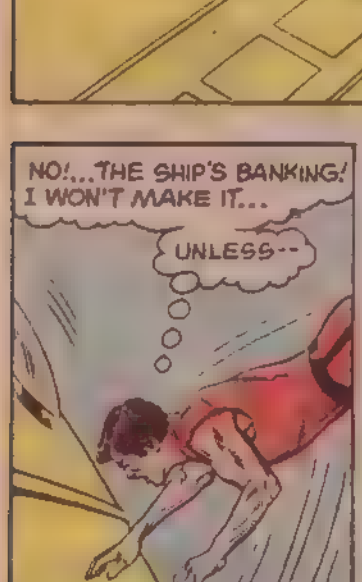
DO YOU THINK I'M A FOOL? AT LAST I HAVE THE POWER I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF!
POWER TO DO ANYTHING!
AND IT'S TEARING YOU APART! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
SHUT UP, LITTLE MAN, OR SO HELP ME-
PAIN'S DRIVING HIM MAD! AND I'M TOO WEAK TO STOP HIM!
"IT'S UP TO GAIL NOW!"
I'M SORRY, RON..
...THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!
ARGHH!


WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
GAIL DID IT! WITHOUT HIS POWER SOURCE THIS CONSTRUCT CAN'T EXIST!
NOOO!
NOOO!
EPILOGUE..
THE ACCIDENT SOMEHOW CREATED AN ENERGY LINK BETWEEN RON AND THE COMPUTERS THAT CONTROLLED THE LASER PROJECTOR.
ONCE IT WAS DESTROYED..
...HE RETURNED TO NORMAL!
HE NEVER MEANT TO HURT ANYONE. HE JUST COULDN'T CONTROL HIS NEW-FOUND POWER!
I WONDER IF WE D.D THE RIGHT THING?
BELIEVE ME... YOU DID THE RIGHT THING!
FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, HE'S THE LUCKIEST MAN ALIVE!
END

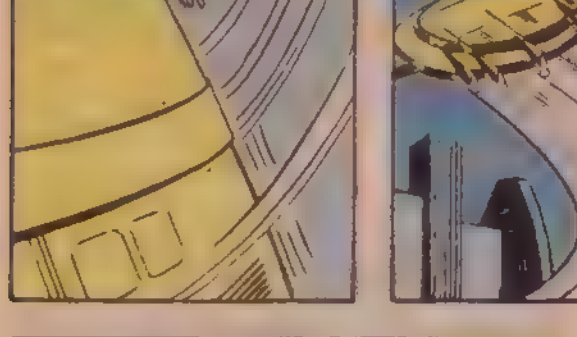
BUILT TO BE PERFECT SLAVES, ROBOTS BECAME TYRANNICAL MASTERS UNTIL ONE MAN WITH STEEL-SMASHING STRENGTH DARED CHALLENGE THEM ..
MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER
4000 A.D.
THE GENTLE CALM OF NORTH AM IS SHATTERED THIS NIGHT BY THE SUDDEN ROAR OF RAM-JET ENGINES AND THE WHINE OF DEADLY LASERS AS MAGNUS FINDS HIMSELF HURLED INTO A MURDEROUS...
DEATHTRAP
WRITTEN BY: ROGER McKENZIE
ART BY: FRANK BOLLE

MAGNUS!
LEEJA! GRAB MY HAND!
I-- I CAN'T REACH IT, MAGNUS!
TRY, LEEJA! JUST A LITTLE MORE! YOU HAVE TO TRY!
MAGNUS ... THAT SHIP--
A COUNCIL BATTLE CRUISER, LEEJA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S DOING HERE...
...OR WHY IT'S TRYING TO MURDER US. .


...BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT!

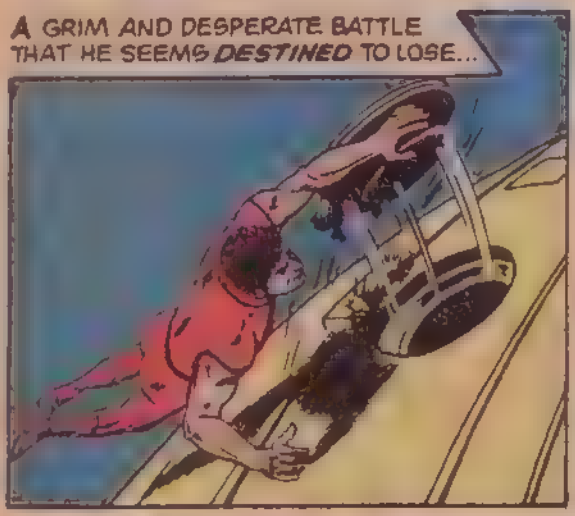

NO!...THE SHIP'S BANKING! I WON'T MAKE IT...
UNLESS---

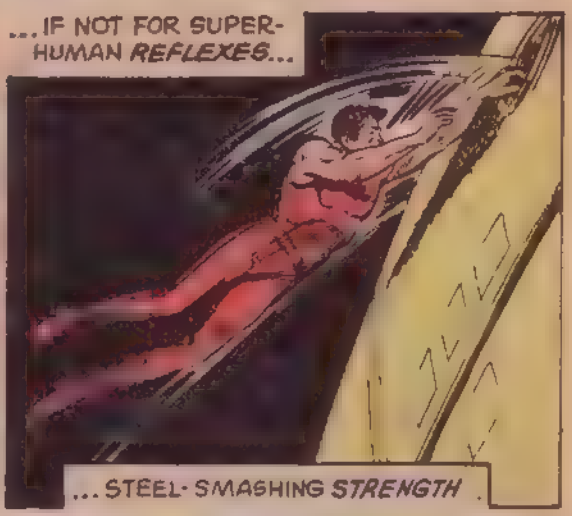
MAGNUS!

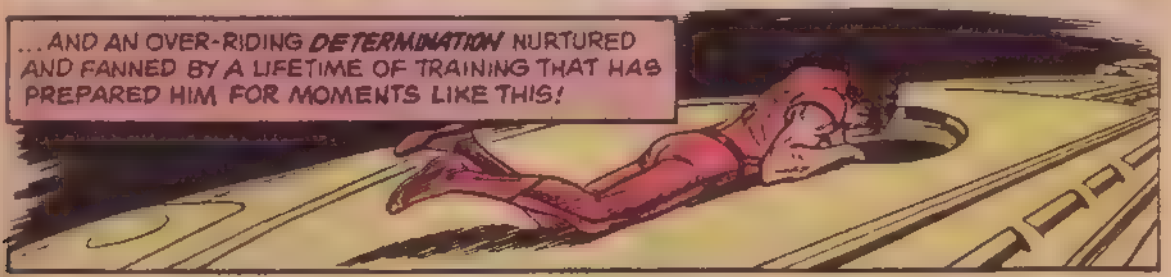

AIR'S GETTING THIN... HARD TO BREATHE!
CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH LONGER!

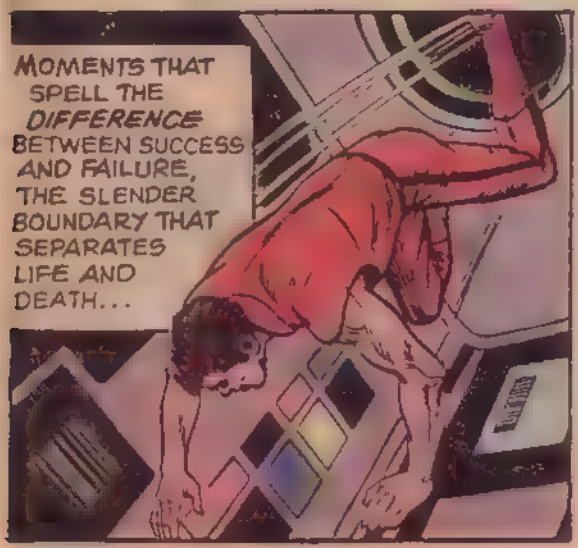
THAT HATCH IS MY ONLY HOPE!

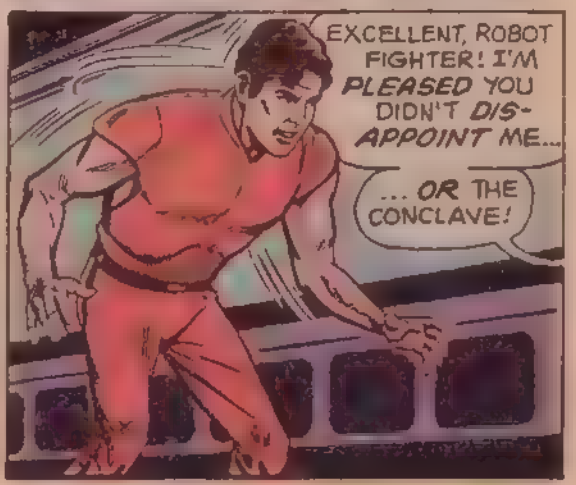
FINGERS THAT CAN CRIPPLE ROBOTS DIG FRANTICALLY AT SALVATION AS MAGNUS BATTLES FOR HIS *LIFE* ON THE EDGE OF SPACE...

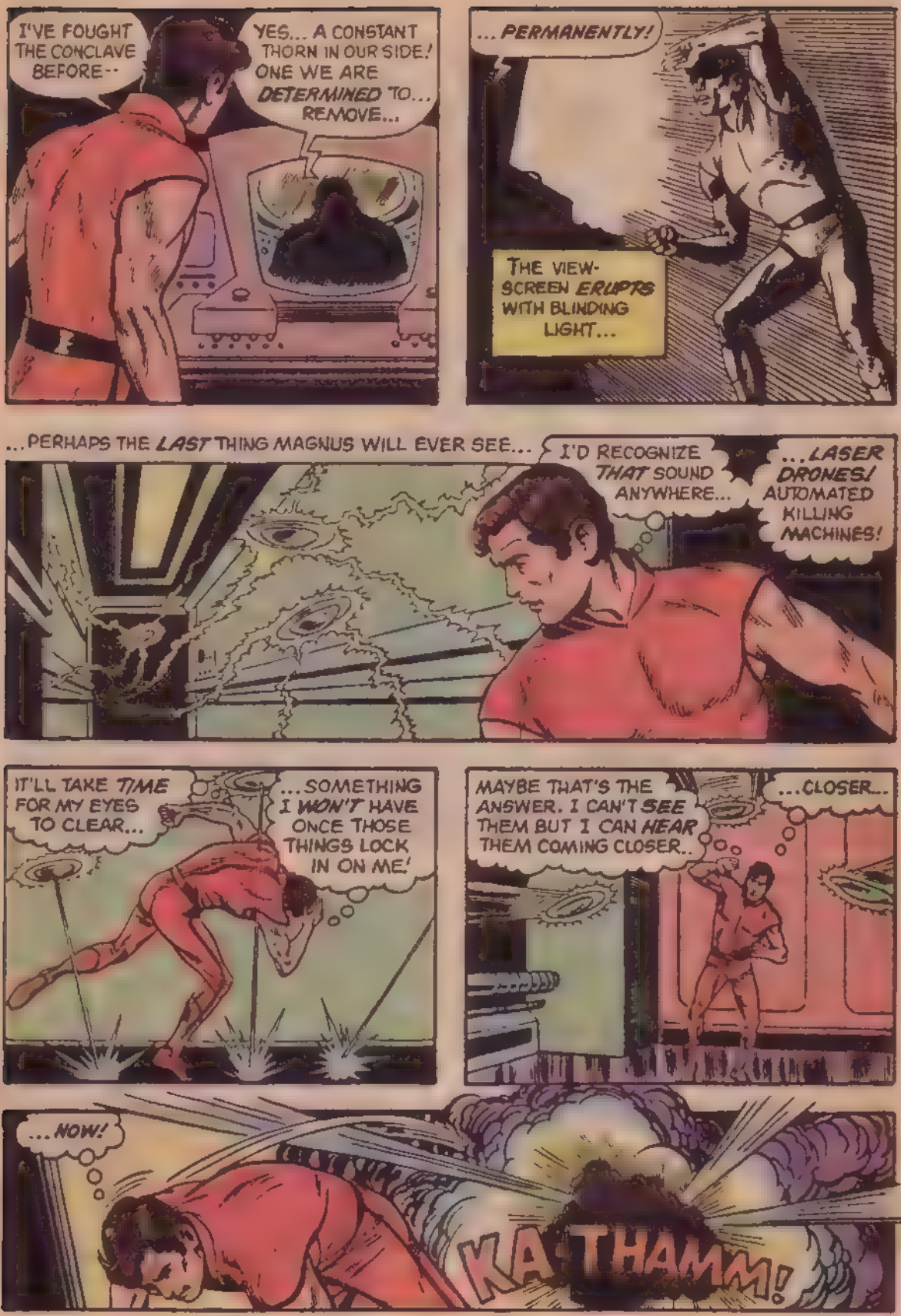

A GRIM AND DESPERATE BATTLE THAT HE SEEMS *DESTINED* TO LOSE...


...IF NOT FOR SUPER-HUMAN *REFLEXES*...
...STEEL-SMASHING *STRENGTH*

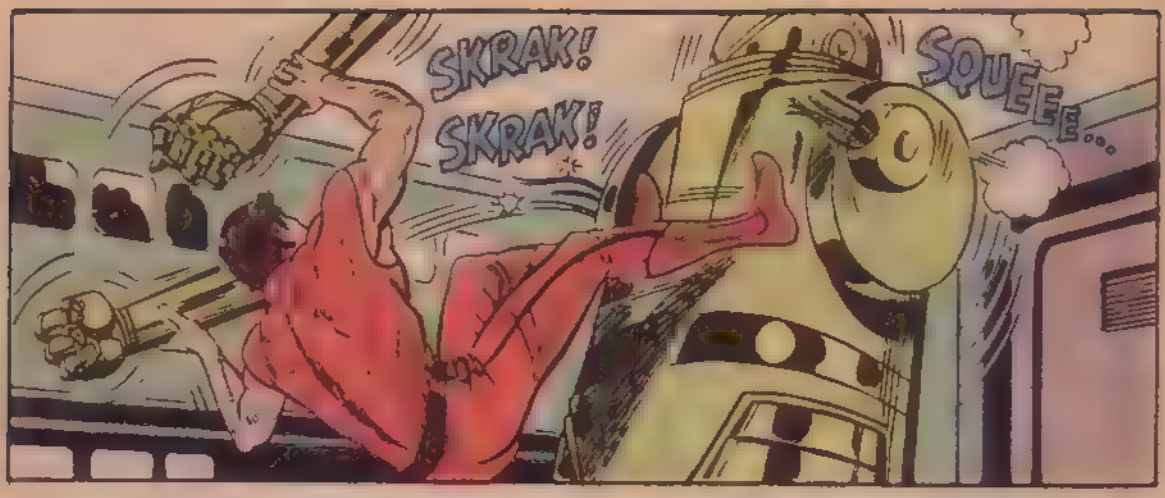

...AND AN OVER-RIDING *DETERMINATION* NURTURED AND FANNED BY A LIFETIME OF TRAINING THAT HAS PREPARED HIM FOR MOMENTS LIKE THIS!


MOMENTS THAT SPELL THE *DIFFERENCE* BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE, THE SLENDER BOUNDARY THAT SEPARATES LIFE AND DEATH...


...THOUGH, FOR MAGNUS, THIS LONG NIGHT OF *TRAGEDY* HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN...
EXCELLENT, ROBOT FIGHTER! I'M *PLEASED* YOU DIDN'T *DIS-APPOINT* ME...
...*OR* THE CONCLAVE!

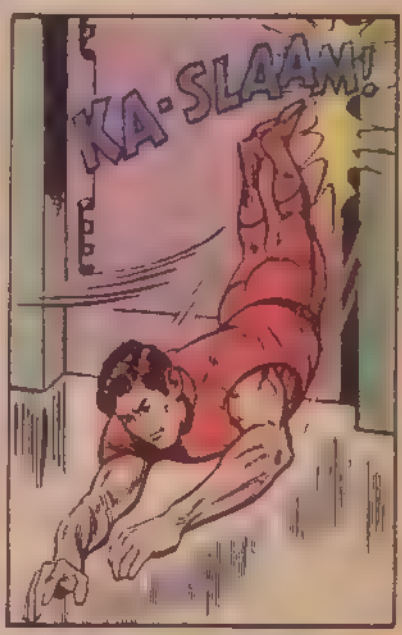

I'VE FOUGHT THE CONCLAVE BEFORE--
YES... A CONSTANT THORN IN OUR SIDE! ONE WE ARE DETERMINED TO... REMOVE...
... PERMANENTLY!
THE VIEW-SCREEN ERUPTS WITH BLINDING LIGHT...
...PERHAPS THE LAST THING MAGNUS WILL EVER SEE...
I'D RECOGNIZE THAT SOUND ANYWHERE...
...LASER DRONES! AUTOMATED KILLING MACHINES!
IT'LL TAKE TIME FOR MY EYES TO CLEAR...
...SOMETHING I WON'T HAVE ONCE THOSE THINGS LOCK IN ON ME!
MAYBE THAT'S THE ANSWER. I CAN'T SEE THEM BUT I CAN HEAR THEM COMING CLOSER..
...CLOSER...
...NOW!
KA-THAMM!

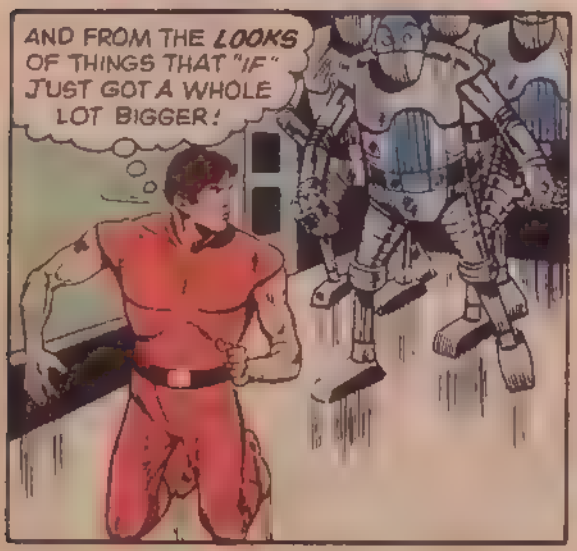
LUCKY... TO BE ALIVE..
THE CONCLAVE... WHOEVER... WHATEVER THEY ARE, HAVE TURNED THIS SHIP INTO A DEATHTRAP!
AT LEAST MY VISION'S CLEARING, I--
SKA-THAAM!
THUP!
THUP!

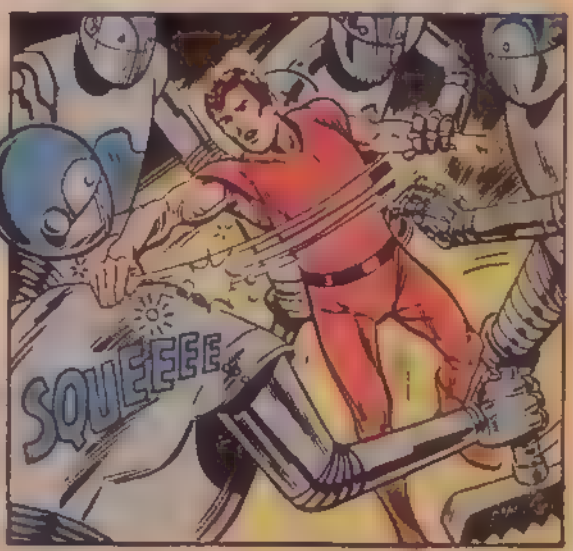

SKRAK!
SKRAK!
SQUEEE...

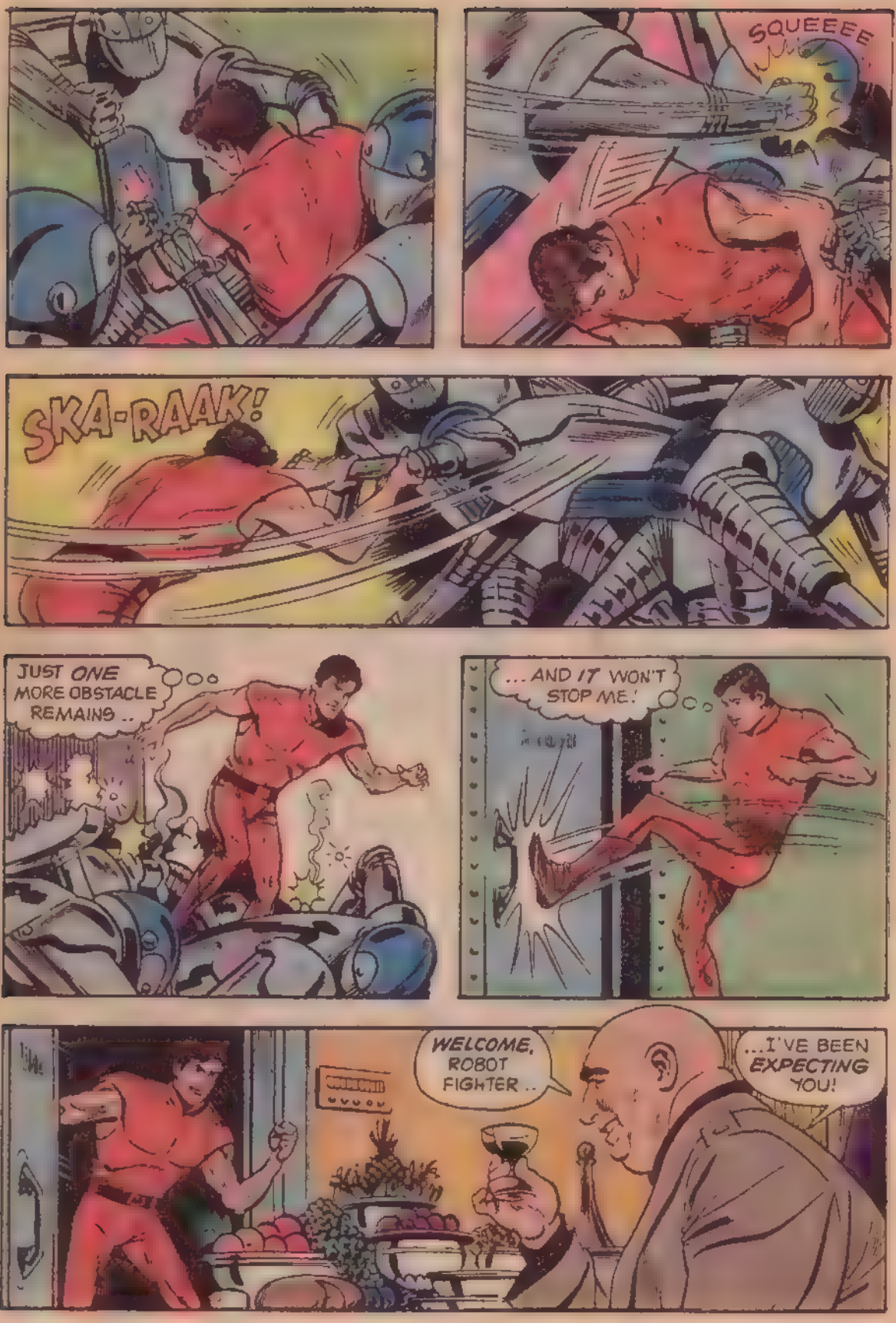
CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOREVER...BUT I *WON'T* HAVE TO IF I CAN REACH THE BRIDGE...
...AND TAKE *CONTROL* OF THIS DEATHSHIP!

BUT THAT *COULD* BE A BIG "IF"--
THAT DOOR...IT'S CLOSING!


KA-SLAAM!


AND FROM THE *LOOKS* OF THINGS THAT "IF" JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT BIGGER!


SQUEEEE


SQUEEEE
SKA-RAAK!
JUST ONE MORE OBSTACLE REMAINS ..
... AND IT WON'T STOP ME!
WELCOME, ROBOT FIGHTER ..
...I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

THEN EXPECT ME TO END THIS INSANITY HERE AND NOW!
THREATS ARE MEANINGLESS, MAGNUS!
WE ARE BOTH DEAD MEN, YOU AND I. THIS SHIP WILL BE OUR TOMB!
BA-WHOOOM!
COME. ENJOY YOUR FINAL MOMENTS BEFORE WE PLUNGE TO EARTH! THAT BOMB DESTROYED OUR ENGINES. THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
YOU MAY BE WILLING TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY. I'M NOT... NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
SKRUUUNCH!
SKREEE...
KA-WHAAM!

LEAPED CLEAR JUST IN TIME... BUT...
YOU WON THIS BATTLE... KLIK... ROBOT FIGHTER!
BUT... KLIK... MARK MY WORDS... KLIK... THE WAR WILL BELONG TO THE...
... CONCLAVEEE...
THE FOLLOWING DAY...
HOW IS HE, DOCTOR?
FOR A HUMAN, SENATOR CLANE, REMARKABLY FIT...
... CONSIDERING HIS ORDEAL!
MAGNUS!
YOU HAD US WORRIED, SON. BUT AT LEAST IT'S OVER, NOW!
FOR THE MOMENT, SENATOR... ONLY FOR THE MOMENT!
COMING SOON! LOOK FOR MAGNUS IN HIS OWN BOOK!
END
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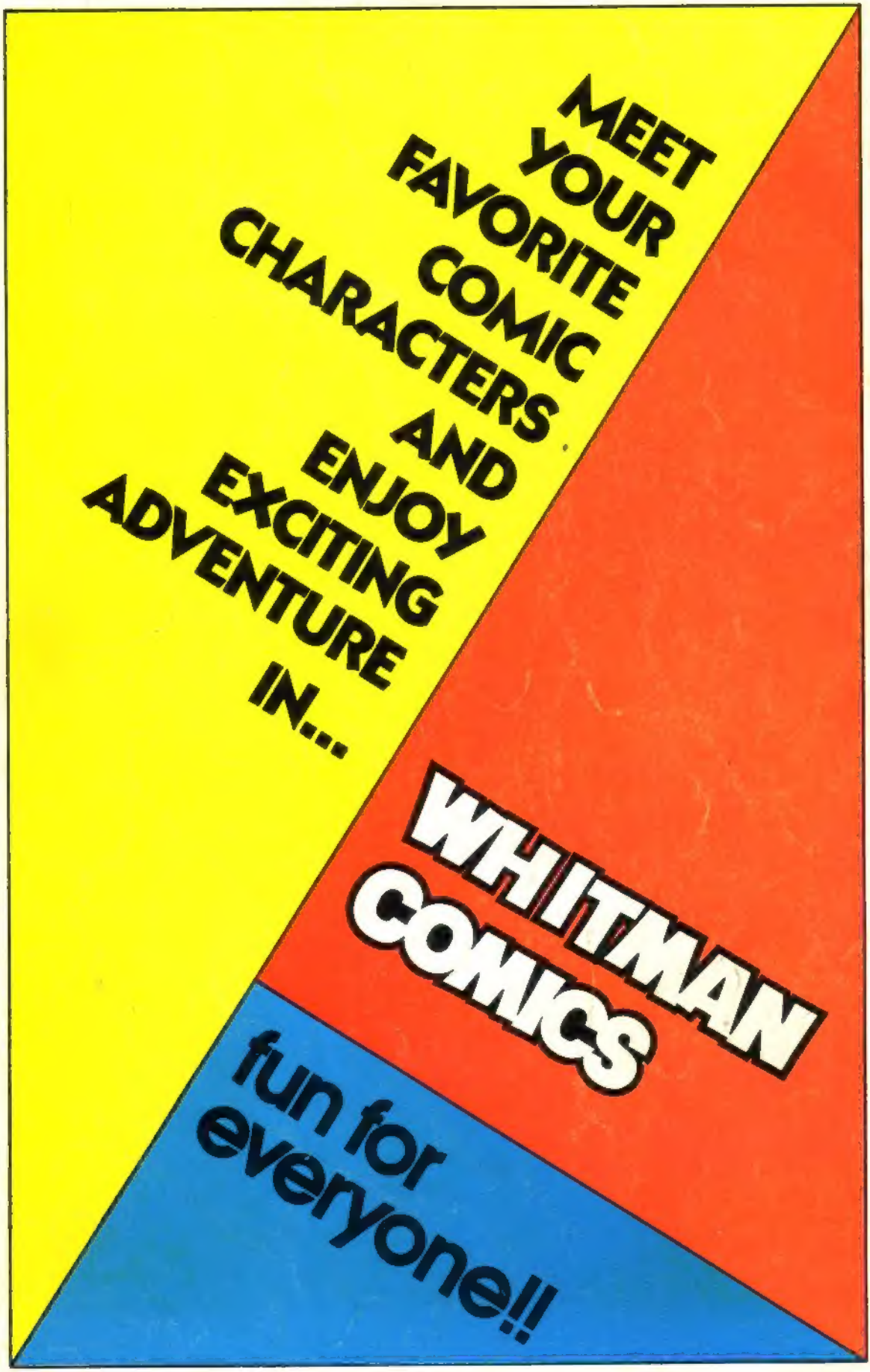
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